

SCDXC Newsletter



The Southern California DX Club is a group of dedicated men and women active in the amateur radio community who enjoy communicating over the air with other radio amateurs around the world.

The SCDXC strongly supports the DX Code of Conduct. Please visit their website:

www.dx-code.org

The SCDXC newsletter is published monthly and released to club members around the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be published as time and space permit.

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Any questions regarding this newsletter or its articles should be addressed to the Editor, Bill, N6RV at:

n6rv@scdxc.org

Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except April, June and December.

Please check the club web site for events and details at:

<http://www.scdxc.org>

If you are in the area please say hello on our repeater:

W6AM/R 145.48, (-) PL 100.0

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If you need him get in there and work him"



**2016
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From the Desk of the President

Doug Dowds, W6HB

QST de W6HB:

April is upon us and the 2017 International DX Convention awaits us in Visalia in few weeks. Here's hoping to see most of you there. The SCDXC will have a table in the foyer and we will need happy faces to man same to promote the club and talk about our IDXC 2018. Please remember there is no dinner or meeting on April 13th.

Having heard no feedback from the members regarding an on the air operating event to commemorate our 70th year and our relatively new club call sign, K6DXC, the subject is being dropped for now. We will have a club historical retrospect program and a birthday cake as our July meeting event.

Ready for a picnic? Jerry, K6AV, is our crew chief for this year's feed scheduled for June 4th. Let him and the ladies know side dishes you would like to bring and any other help you can provide.

The holiday party planning is also well underway and the venue and a firm date should be released soon. Thanks to your BOD for their early and proactive efforts on your behalf.

Barry, N6VOH, is working toward a set of DX 101 classes that the club is hoping to sponsor. These are envisioned as mentored one over one workshops to be convened possibly on a Saturday every few months at WEMS. The target audience is the new DXer.

The "Dr DX" program is off to a good start despite a couple heartaches. The "Dr" has already fielded legitimate questions from all over the world. Visit the club's Web-site for more info. Please refer new DXers to this for support.

Enjoy the bands. Conditions just make it more of a challenge for the "deserving".....

73 - Doug - W6HB

April Calendar

Apr. 1	SP DX Contest (Remember April Fools month this newsletter)
Apr. 8	JIDX Contest CW
Apr. 8	OK/OM DX Contest SSB
Apr. 14	Holy Land DX Contest
Apr. 15	YU DX Contest
Apr. 21	International DX Convention at Visalia
Apr. 22	UK / EI DX Contest CW
Apr. 22	SP DX RTTY Contest
Apr. 29	Helvetica Contest

Vice President's Corner

Mel Hughes, K6SY

This month is full of news. On the home front I finally have the Flex6500, SPE-2k, SteppIR DB-18, Yaesu rotor, the Flex Control Knob, my log, and DDUtil all working together and talking to each other. And my wife says I'm no longer mumbling to myself.

Next up is the IDXC in Visalia. There will be some major changes in the way raffle prizes are handled. The NCDXC has announced that they intend to follow the Major Prizes and Raffle IRS Tax Rules:

We have reviewed [IRS Publication 3079](#) again regarding tax obligations from raffle prizes and believe we must comply with those laws. Everyone who wins a major prize with a fair market value over \$601 has a tax obligation. They will be required to sign a W-2G form before receiving the prize.

If a prize is worth more than \$5,001, we must withhold 33 1/3% of the fair market value. We have two such prizes: Elecraft K-Line and Flex-6700. However, NCDXC has decided to pay those taxes on behalf of the winners — an estimated \$4,500 altogether.

Complete details are available at <http://www.dxconvention.com/pages/prizes-major.html>

Following the IDXC is the May meeting. If you haven't tried SCDXC DXChat yet come early with your cell phone and/or laptop and I'll help you get setup.

Sunday, June 4th is the annual Club Picnic, noon at Woodley Park.

This year is the 70th Anniversary of the founding of our Southern California DX Club. Come join the celebration at the July SCDXC Meeting, Thursday, July 13, 2017. The program will feature a special presentation of slides and other items from the SCDXC Archives.

At the September meeting Bill Shell, N6WS, will be speaking about his July trip to the Ham Radio Convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

The annual Boat Anchor Auction is scheduled for our October 12th meeting. Skip, KJ6Y, will be handling the gavel and Jeff, K6JW will lead the team collecting the money.

And that brings us to December and the Annual Holiday Party. This year the party will begin at noon on December 10, 2017. This date was selected at the urging of Mark, K6FG, so there wouldn't be a conflict with the San Fernando Club's holiday party again this year. Thanks Mark. The party will be at the Ports 'O Call Restaurant in San Pedro. It's Freeway close with lots of free parking.

So mark your calendars so you won't miss anything.

See you in the Pile Ups.

Mel – K6SY
SCDXC VP

Rumors on the Band

Contest season is coming to a close so the propensity of DXpeditions will diminish until the Fall. It has been a good run all in all and there are still people going on vacation and bringing the radios!

Most of us will be at Visalia so the ancient Buddhist proverb applies... Is there really any DX on the bands if no one is listening. In any event never stop listening ... they may not appear and if they do you will never know it!

Note the one day Wake Island operation on Friday, March 31 at the end of this week. Randy, WW6RG/KH9, actually will only be on a few hours. This is a work assignment and he will be running QRP, 5 watts. He will operate SSB only and will start the operation on 14190.

QTH	Call	Start Date	End Date	Information
Senegal	6W2SC	Now	31-Mar	HA3AUI 20-10m CW
Guinea Bissau	J5UAP	Now	31-Mar	HA3AUI 20-10m CW
Tuvalu	T2	Now	2-Apr	SP5EAQ (T2AQ) SP7DQR (T2QR) 80-10m CW SSB RTTY
Tanzania	5H3MB	Now	12-Apr	IK2GZU 80-10m SSB CW RTTY
Micronesia	V633KS	Now	3-Apr	JA6REX 160-10m CW SSB RTTY
Tonga	A35JP/p	Now	28-Mar	JA0RQV 40-6m CW SSB
Albania	ZA	Now	29-Mar	PE1KL, PD5LKM, PA2LS ZA/PA2LS 160-2m SSB CW PSK RTTY
Tuvalu	T2TT	Now	13-Apr	NL8F CQ WPX SSB
Rotuma	3D2AG/p	Now	22-Apr	3D2AG 160-6m
Wake I	KH9	31-Mar	31-Mar	WW6RG SSB 5w One Day Spare Time
Nepal	9N1MD	1-Apr	30-Apr	9N1AA
Vanuatu	YJ0YM	6-Apr	17-Apr	VA7YM 80-6m; SSB RTTY PSK31
Seychelles	S79Z	6-Apr	18-Apr	OK1RI OK1NY OK1FFU OK1JKT OK1VVT OM5AW 160-10m CW SSB
Guinea Bissau	J5	7-Apr	15-Apr	EA3BT (J5B) EA3WL (J5W) 40-6m CW SSB RTTY
East Kiribati	T32AZ	7-Apr	13-Apr	KH6QJ 80-10m
Laos	XW4XR	7-Apr	26-Apr	3W3B 160-10m CW RTTY JT65
St Vincent	J88PI	7-Apr	23-Apr	GW4DVB 40-10m SSB
Isle of Man	GT4BRS	15-Apr	22-Apr	GW0ANA MW0DHF DJ8NK DL9GFB DL9RCF CW SSB JT65
Cape Verde Is	D4T	18-Apr	25-Apr	CT1FFY HF + 6 CW SSB Digital
Botswana	A25UK	25-Apr	6-May	G0VJG & team 160-6m CW SSB RTTY

DX Standings

Here are the latest standings. It has not changed at all this month. I will go through and completely scrub them using the LoTW and ClubLog stats after the convention.

Red represents members who have all current entities (#1 Honor Roll)

Blue Represents members who have 330 entities or above (Honor Roll).

Black is everyone else.

N6RV@SCDXC.org

SCDXC WAZ and DXCC Standings

The first WAZ column is the confirmed zone count on 10 bands 160 - 6 (less 60 meters). The second column is the regular 5BWAZ confirmed count. The following are the codes that follow the two columns and indicate the awards:

M	Mixed
P	Phone
C	CW
R	RTTY
5	5 Band

The first DXCC column is the confirmed entity count with deleted countries. The second column is the confirmed current entity count. The third column is the challenge slots.

The members highlighted in Red are at the top of the Honor Roll. Those in Blue are on the Honor Roll

SCDXC Southern California Members Standings 2017									
Rank	Call	Total	Current	Slots	Rank	Call	Total	Current	Slots
1	W6KH	388	339		50	AC6DX	319	317	1861
2	K6YRA	377	339	2272	51	AK6I	316		
3	K6EXO	370	332		52	N6YQ	315		
4	N6UC	366	339		53	KC6T	314		
5	K6YUI	365	339	2590	54	N6GP	314	286	1583
6	W6BCQ	365	339	1522	55	N6VNI	309	306	1452
7	NS6C	360	339	2456	56	W6HB	306	307	1445
8	K6SMF	360	337		57	NK6A	303	297	957
9	W6HT	358	339		58	K6IRD	294	292	649
10	W6SR	358	339	2799	59	N6UOZ	280		
11	WA6WZO	357	339		60	KT6LA	278	276	1027
12	K6FG	356	339	2744	61	WA6WXD	274		
13	K8RD	356	339		62	K6VC	259		
14	K6GXO	355	339	2624	63	N6VOH	243		
15	N6RV	355	338	1973	64	W6DOE	242		
16	W6IRD	354	337		65	K6SS	241	255	882
17	K5KT	353	339		66	W6LEN	236	216	771
18	N6QQ	353	337	2164	67	KN6VF	233		
19	W6TJI	353	335		68	N6HE	228		
20	N7NR	352		1123	69	KQ6K	224		
21	W8DX	352	339	2517	70	N6AA	222		
22	W6OU	352	333	1570	71	K6JEY	220		
23	W6TK	350	339	1781	72	K6AWB	219		
24	W6YOO	349	338	2129	73	W6WVW	210		
25	N6AWD	349	337	1466	74	W6JEA	195		
26	N6HC	348	339	2254	75	W6KC	195	194	528
27	W6KK	348	339	1747	76	K6DDJ	188	185	452
28	WA5VGI	348	339	2687	77	K6QU	172	172	
29	W6VX	348	338	2742	78	KF6I	143		
30	N6HY	345	336	2424	79	NC6B	170	170	479
31	N6WS	348	336	1862	80	KB6CIO	167		
32	A16Z	348	335	2145	81	K7LA	160	160	355
33	N6IC	347	336		82	W6QE	149	149	224
34	KR6C	344	338	1956	83	AB9A	141		
35	K6LPO	344	221	1236	84	KK6FJQ	139	139	142
36	N6PE	343	331	1251	85	K6MKL	126	126	185
37	N6EQ	341	334	1793	86	K6DSW	122	122	268
38	W6ZPL	338	335	1367	87	KC6TOD	120		
39	N6XT	337	330		88	AD6LV	118		
40	K6RO	336	331	1531	89	N6RU	118	118	218
41	W6SW	336	318	501	90	N6DBF	117	117	301
42	W6FL	335			91	N6PM	114	113	243
43	K2IXQ	335	331	1694	92	KA6D	107		
44	N6MU	332	329	1216	93	N6LL	105		
45	K6SY	332	322	1037	94	W6DAW	105		
46	KØOK	329	327	1728	95	K6BBC	103		
47	AB6CF	328		1404	96	N6HD	101		
48	N6AX	325			97	NQ6L	101		
49	K6JW	325	319	1057	98	WA6MEM	100		
	AA6PW	320		1559	99	NE6V	87	87	150
	N6NPG	319			100	KK6ABZ	13	13	23

SCDXC Member at Large Standings 2017									
Rank	Call	Total	Current	Slots	Rank	Call	Total	Current	Slots
1	K6KII	387	339		9	K6ND	347	339	2491
2	JA1BK	382	339	3094	10	SM5GMZ	343	333	2180
3	OH2BH	377	339		11	K7ACZ	341	324	1746
4	ON4UN	371	339	1969	12	W6DR	323	318	1365
5	DJ9ZB	365	339	2653	13	N6DHZ	295	289	1053
6	K6IPV	362	334	1711	14	W3SE/ZL3TE	293	291	1382
7	N4XX	358	339	1598	15	K7MY	267	265	831
8	KC6X	349	335	1987					

WAZ Standings		
Call	10B / 5B	Awards
K6ND	378 / 200	M/5
W6SR	369 / 200	M/P/C/5
K6FG	365 / 198	M/P/C/R/5
WA5VGI	358 / 200	M/P/C/5
W8DX	357 / 200	M/5
EU7SA	357 / 200	M/5
N6AW	355 / 200	M/P/C
K6YRA	337 / 200	P/5
K6YUI	337 / 200	M/P/C/R/5
WD6L	248 / 200	M/P/5
N6OU	220 / 200	M/5
K6UNR	/ 200	M/P/5
W6VX	352 / 199	
NS6C	198 / 198	
K6GXO	358 / 198	M
SM5GMZ	345 / 196	M/P/C
W6ENZ	306 / 196	
N6MXU	155 / 193	
K2PLF	191 / 191	
N6RV	302 / 187	M/P/C
KC6X	294 / 187	M/P/C/5
N6QQ	325 / 186	M/P/C/R
K6LD	314 / 186	M/P/C
W6YOO	308 / 185	M/P/C/5
KH6DX/m	210 / 184	
KH6MB	304 / 179	5
K0OK	286 / 173	
K6SY	246 / 173	P
W6ZPL	237 / 173	M/P
KJ6Y	261 / 172	
KR6C	295 / 171	M/C
AD6KQ	226 / 164	
N6DHZ	214 / 160	P
K6KII	191 / 177	M
W6DR	227 / 159	
NK6A	152 / 152	M/5
W6NRQ	180 / 147	M/P
WA6BOB	152 / 136	M
W6IRD	151 / 111	M/P
W5DQ	161 / 122	
K6IRD	154 / 126	M/P
WB6PSY	139 / 140	P
KT6LA	132 / 103	
N6HE	130 / 138	
W3SE	102 / 112	
K6IRA	118 / 102	
K6VC	96 / 96	P
W6EA	92 / 86	
N6UC	78 / 78	M
KA6TTV	82 / 67	
N6VNI	86 / 64	
N6RRY	74 / 64	
N6GIL	49 / 43	
W6DCK	40 / 40	P
K6JW	40 / 40	M/P
K6YR	39 / 39	
W6DOE	37 / 37	
NZ6L	36 / 36	
W4EF	29 /	
N6AWD		M
N6HC		M/P/C
KB6KTV		P
W6OES		M
K8RD		C

2017 Get Schroeder Contest

2017 Get Schroeder Leaders						
2017 Entities Worked by SCDXC				229		
2017 ClubLog Leaders				256		
2016 SCDXC Members				282		
2016 SCDXC Leaders (N6QQ / N6WS)				265		
2016 ClubLog Leaders				289		
Rank	Call	Entities	Delta	Missed	-QQ	Uniques
						14
1	N6RV	204	24	25	-10	2
2	NC6B	203	12	26	-9	0
3	N6QQ	194	15	35	0	1
4	W6TK	194	18	35	0	1
5	N6WS	192	12	37	2	0
6	NS6C	176	16	53	18	1
7	K0OK	156	28	73	38	1
8	AI6Z	155	35	74	39	0
9	WA5VGI	132	14	97	62	1
10	K7ACZ	125	81	104	69	0
11	NE6V	124	31	105	70	2
12	KK6FJQ	113	28	116	81	0
13	W6SR	106	16	123	88	1

1A0	4S	7Q	A3	CE9	E7	FK	GI	HS	KH0	LY	PJ5	SV9	TU	VK9C	VU	YV
1S	4U1ITU	7X	A4	CN	EA	FK/C	GJ	HV	KH1	LZ	PJ7	T2	TY	VK9L	VU4	YV0
3A	4U1UN	8P	A5	CO	EA6	FM	GM	HZ	KH2	OA	PY	T30	TZ	VK9M	VU7	Z2
3B7	4W	8Q	A6	CP	EA8	FO	GU	I	KH3	OD	PY0F	T31	UA	VK9N	XE	Z3
3B8	4X	8R	A7	CT	EA9	FO/A	GW	IS0	KH4	OE	PY0S	T32	UA0	VK9W	XF4	Z8
3B9	5A	9A	A9	CT3	EI	FO/C	H4	J2	KH5	OH	PY0T	T33	UA2	VK9X	XT	ZA
3C	5B	9G	AP	CU	EK	FO/M	H40	J3	OH0	PZ	T5	UJ	VP2E	XU	ZB2	
3C0	5H	9H	BS7H	CX	EL	FP	HA	J5	KH6	OJ0	R1F	T7	UN	VP2M	XW	ZC4
3D2	5N	9J	BU	CY0	EP	FR	HB	J6	KH7K	OK	S0	T8	UR	VP2V	XX9	ZD7
3D2/C	5R	9K	BV9P	CY9	ER	FR/G	HB0	J7	KH8	OM	S2	TA	V2	VP5	XZ	ZD8
3D2/R	5T	9L	BY	D2	ES	FR/J	HC	J8	KH8S	ON	S5	TF	V3	VP6	YA	ZD9
3DA	5U	9M2	C2	D4	ET	FR/T	HC8	JA	KH9	OX	S7	TG	V4	VP6/D	YB	ZF
3V	5V7	9M6	C3	D6	EU	FS	HH	JD1/M	KL7	OY	S9	TI	V5	VP8	YI	ZK3
3W	5W	9N	C5	DL	EX	FT5W	HI	JD1/O	KP1	OZ	SM	T19	V6	VP8/G	YJ	ZL
3XA	5X	9Q	C6	DU	EY	FT5X	HK	JT	KP2	P2	SP	TJ	V7	VP8/H	YK	ZL7
3Y/B	5Z	9U	C9	E3	EZ	FT5Z	HK0/M	JW	KP4	P4	ST	TK	V8	VP8/O	YL	ZL8
3Y/P	6W	9V	CE	E4	F	FW	HK0/S	JX	KP5	P5	SU	TL	VE	VP8/S	YN	ZL9
4J	6Y	9X	CE0X	E5/N	FG	FY	HL	JY	LA	PA	SV	TN	VK	VP9	YO	ZP
4L	70	9Y	CE0Y	E5/S	FH	G	HP	K	LU	PJ2	SV/A	TR	VK0H	VG9	YS	ZS
40	7P	A2	CE0Z	E6	FJ	GD	HR	KG4	LX	PJ4	SV5	TT	VK0M	VR	YT	ZS8

SCDXC Get Schroeder Standings 2017

Rank	Call	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Slots	Yrs
1	N6RV	0	0	0	157	60	162	77	89	11	29	2	204	587	49
2	NC6B	22	51	0	136	34	157	77	73	10	13	1	203	574	3
3	N6QQ	0	1	0	149	76	164	87	100	17	35	2	194	631	60
4	W6TK	13	45	0	137	38	152	82	89	6	26	0	194	588	60
5	N6WS	7	54	3	134	49	152	78	89	9	32	1	192	608	53
6	NS6C	17	31	0	70	27	86	34	18	5	4	0	176	292	60
7	K0OK	0	13	0	44	15	69	31	36	5	8	0	156	221	45
8	AI6Z	1	28	0	87	9	119	15	52	4	15	0	155	330	24
9	WA5VGI	21	12	0	41	19	100	0	42	0	4	0	132	239	33
10	K7ACZ	10	38	0	75	9	97	26	64	3	12	0	125	334	14
11	NE6V	31	50	0	61	0	33	40	29	9	11	0	124	264	21
12	KK6FJQ	0	0	0	32	5	82	20	23	0	1	0	113	163	4
13	W6SR	19	30	0	50	3	86	1	70	0	21	6	106	286	50
14	AC6DX	0	33	0	58	0	42	2	40	0	22	1	79	198	10
15	N6PM	0	1	0	41	17	50	15	31	0	10	0	78	165	23
16	SM5GMZ	10	16	0	21	21	24	35	12	1	0	0	77	140	48
17	K6FG	4	25	0	38	6	36	22	33	1	1	0	75	166	61
18	N6VNI	0	17	0	37	1	29	15	10	0	0	0	75	109	28
19	NK6A	0	0	0	23	0	59	0	52	0	16	0	74	150	72
20	W6KC	0	24	0	47	0	38	0	43	1	15	0	63	168	20
21	N6DBF	0	2	5	34	4	29	27	22	1	4	1	62	129	31
22	K6QU	0	23	0	40	13	17	12	7	2	3	0	57	117	3
23	W6OU	4	21	0	19	16	12	14	9	8	2	1	53	106	54
24	N6HE	3	3	0	9	13	38	12	22	2	4	0	53	106	39
25	KM6HB	5	8	0	29	9	21	11	15	3	3	0	50	104	26
26	W6QE	0	0	0	1	0	37	2	22	0	2	0	47	64	23
27	ZL3TE	0	7	0	39	5	12	5	18	0	1	0	45	87	13
28	K6DJ	0	1	0	12	4	14	9	8	0	1	0	34	49	22
29	WZ6D	0	1	0	15	0	14	4	13	0	0	0	34	47	1
30	K6PGH	0	0	0	1	0	24	0	18	0	5	0	29	48	4
31	N6AX	0	5	0	14	9	6	7	2	0	0	0	28	43	48
32	N6RU	0	0	0	0	0	23	3	1	0	1	0	23	28	9
33	WB6DJI	0	0	0	2	0	4	8	1	0	0	0	11	15	4
34	K7MY	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	9	0	1	0	10	17	40
35	W6SW	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	7	9	38
36	K6YUI	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	60
37	KR6C	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	39
38	KT6LA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	11	

Chart Legend

White / Green	Entity Worked This Year by a Member
Black / White	Very Active Entity Not Yet Worked
Black / Blue	Entity with Announced Dxpedition
Black / Yellow	Rarely Active Entity Not Yet Worked
Black / Red	Inactive Entity
	Deleted Entity

When we least expect it the bands take off! The country counts are beginning to enter the surreal zone. The leaders have broken 200 entities for the year in 65 days putting them at 11 and 13 in North America and 30 and 32 worldwide! **The SCDXC total is 229!** If this continues we will run out of new ones to work! There are darn few white spaces on the chart above!

Looking down the roster note that 13 have worked DXCC this year. Further investigation shows that many contacts were made on CW and RTTY. So if you haven't got the memo it is time to step up your skills!

The bands were pretty active including several DXpeditions. As expected the number of new entities added by members dropped from 37 last month to 16 this month. Below are the entities we added this month:

4L	9N	HB0	S2
4O	E6	J5	T2
5U	EL	JW	TJ
8R	GJ	KH8	YI

Entities added to SCDXC totals this month

3A	9U	ET	SU	UJ	YA
5V7	A9	EY	SV/A	VK9C	Z2
5X	AP	J2	T30	VK9X	ZA
7Q	D2	KH0	T31	VQ9	ZC4
8Q	E4	ST	TT	XU	Z8

Entities worked on ClubLog not yet worked by SCDXC

This month the ClubLog leaders added 26 new entities to their count. At the same time we closed the gap from 32 to 30. We worked 9 of theirs and they picked up 7 more. ClubLog leaders did reduce the number of entities we worked that they didn't from 16 to 3. The three are 5N, FH, & TJ. **The ClubLog leaders combined worked 256 entities! Thirty six members have greater than 200 entities!**

Get Schroeder Award Standings are calculated by entries in Club Log.

To learn how to use club log and enter your countries see <http://www.scdxc.org/dx-standings.html>

Meet Rich Stepanian, W6TK

Well I tried to get Bill Shell to give us his life story however he responded from the hospital where he is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Speedy recovery Bill! I will interview you in the next couple months when things have stabilized at your homestead.

Bill did suggest his comadre from up north who is one of his inspirations and, by the way, next on my list. If you haven't figured it out we are interviewing the top contenders for the 2017 Get Schroeder competition. These characters have piqued my curiosity.

Thanks Dick for being a good sport and opening up your shack (virtually) to us!

So without further adieu meet Dick Stepanian, W6TK.



Tell us who you are.

I am Dick Stepanian - W6TK

Where do you live?

I live in Nipomo, California. Nipomo is on the Central Coast - between Santa Maria and Pismo Beach.

What you do for a living?

I am retired from Gov't Civil Service having worked for DoD for 32+ years.

Family situation?

I am married to Liz (W6TKF - my original call) for 40 years. We have two grown children who are married. Our son lives in Kingsburg, CA and our daughter lives in Canby, OR. Between the two of them we have 6 grandchildren - 3 girls and 3 boys. Both kids had their licenses earlier - but both are expired.

Next let's talk ham radio:

How did you get started in ham radio?

I got my license through encouragement in Boy Scouts. A friend of mine, K6ZLY - Bob, and I were in the same Scout Troop in Fresno. Our parents took turns taking us the Fresno Amateur Radio Club who taught Novice Classes. We both took and passed our Novice exam after completing the class.

When you were first licensed?

When you were first licensed?

I was first licensed as a Novice in Aug 1957. I took and passed my General Class in summer of 1958. I took and passed my Extra in about 1990.

Who got you started?

Above: encouragement through our Scout Troop - but none of the other guys were Hams. My friend, Bob, K6ZLY's uncle was a Ham and he encouraged us as well. I can't recall his call or name. After getting our licenses - there were several of the local Hams who encouraged and helped us. Unfortunately, I can't recall any of their names or calls. They invited us to the FARC Field Day and helped us get on SSB and helped us resolve our TVI problems!

**What was your first station?**

My 1st station was a Knight Kit - Space Spanner(?) receiver which I built as a kit, and my transmitter was a homebrew 25 watt xtal controlled TX on 40 meters.

**How did you get bit by the DX bug?**

The DX bug bite hard from the early days. My first DX Q was a station in South America - I think in Brazil. By then I was using a 75 watt homebrew CW rig (design from the ARRL Handbook) and a Heathkit AR-3(?) Rx. Antenna was a homebrew 2 band Quad - 10 and 15 Meters from a design out of QST. Of course band conditions were GREAT in 1957-58 - couldn't help but work DX!!!

What is your station now?

My current station is a FTdx5000MP to an Alpha 87A Amp and the antenna is a SteppIR DB32 at 55 Ft. I often run barefoot.

How often and when do you get on the air?

Being retired - I turn the rig on daily. I will look and listen for DX periodically through the day. Some days I don't even make a Q. I look at the Cluster as I pass by the monitor and also use Mumble to connect with the local guys - like a local intercom.

What is your favorite mode?

My favorite mode is CW - but I operate and enjoy SSB as well. I am newer at RTTY and now have added PSK and JT65, but CW remains my favorite.

What is your favorite band?

My favorite band is the band where I can hear/work DX. I like to contest so you can find me wherever I can get through the pileups or run JA's - hihi.

What was your most memorable QSO?

I recall running a phone patch (long ago) where the guy asked his girl friend's parents if he could marry their daughter. The guy was visiting his girlfriend, who was a missionary in Peru and the gals folks lived in Oxnard, CA. This was when we were living in Ventura back in the 70's sometime. I use to run a lot of phone patches between guys on sailboats in South Pacific to Ventura area and other places in the states. Also recall working Monk Apollo - one of my last for Top of Honor Roll.

Do you like contesting?

Yes - a great adrenaline rush for the contest period!!

You have been at Visalia. What are some of your favorite activities there?

Yes - I've been to Visalia over the years - but not a regular attendee. I enjoy shaking hands with guys I've met on the air or know from over the years, as well as some of the seminars. Dinners are great but personal handshakes are better!

What contests do you participate in?

I play in CQWW- CW-RTTY-SSB, CQWPX - CW-RTTY and SSB. I also like ARRL DX - SSB and CW. I play in most NAQP Contests ARRL Sweepstakes. I will jump in on other DX contests and even State QSO Parties occasionally. I am slowing down some - but contesting is always fun like DXing. I've run a few M/S contests from here and may do more of that in the future.

What are your future plans?

Keep enjoying our great hobby as long as I can - especially DXing and Contesting and to help others when, where and how I might. Thanks for inviting me to share.

Thanks again Dick for sharing! We hope to see you at the convention and get some face time.

This is the second interview with club members. I am refining the question pool. If anyone has suggestions for other questions germane to DXing let me know. I am eager to improve this column as time goes by! ... Ed

An Interview with Dr. DX

We have been graced by the presence of a DX expert whose skill at the art of attracting the elusive and often improbable entity is known far and wide. His wisdom is without bound and humility is undoubtedly his finest trait!

In the rush to bring swift and certain solutions to this seemingly endless pursuit the doctor has agreed to sit down with us, answer a few questions, and share droplets of his DX wisdom.

Without delay we will begin our interview :



Good morning... Should I call you DX or Dr.?

For the uninformed and scoffer it is Doctor DX. For friends and fellow DXers either DX or Dr. is fine ... just don't call me last in the pile up.

How did you acquire your doctorate in such an esoteric field? Who were your graduate advisors and who did your intern under?

That is a good question. Of course my undergraduate work was in engineering, particularly focused on the design and manufacturing of antennas and radio electronics, minors in the design of large freestanding metal structures and studies in solar astronomy including ancient Mayan and Inca science and ionospheric propagation. I interned at remote posts throughout the world. Under the guise of foreign missions I would gather and assess signal data using sophisticated custom built equipment that was fabricated to my specifications.

I discovered that DXing was more than just a technical challenge. One needs to get into the minds of both quarry and competitor to understand their inner workings. I studied abnormal psychology with a broad spectrum of behavior from the sleep deprived obsessive compulsive and fanatically driven corporate executives who could not take no for an answer to the pathologically shy and retiring persons who spend their time avoiding loud and annoying crowds. I developed a process that matches each personality type with inducements which elicit the desired outcome ... snagging a contact before the row began and stealthily sneaking off to snag another rare one while the brutal and blunt fury of the pile up raged on!

For graduate studies I attended the Western States DX University and sat under the tutelage of several professors and advisors, far too many to mention here. Believe me they were top men... top men.

My real education however was in the contest trenches. It literally was my make or break moment. During those short period of frenzy I was able to learn rapid triage, razor sharp surgical strikes, and, through great suffering (*not my suffering mind you*), learned what lived and what died. In those wee hours I would discover unique and life altering propagation that the weak and weary would miss. You can say I was weaned on DX contests.

Ah... those were the days! The camaraderie, the friends, the experience, the memories all contributed to what I am today. In fact I learned how to operate my first electronic keyer in the '69 ARRL DX Competition. It was brutal... for the DX. I recall one station said I made his ears bleed. Even so it was all worth it! Though many on the receiving end were battered and beaten I came through virtually unscathed and battle hardened!

Since then I have enjoyed many years of successful and productive DXing.

What do you see as the greatest challenge to your profession?

That is easy! The field is woefully understaffed. You see, I am well passed my expiration date and soon I will be remanded to one of those retirement communities where DXers sit in front of computer screens running Morse Runner and Dr. DX over and over longing for just one more taste of the real deal! Before that happens my colleagues and I would like to impart to the next generation our wisdom and experience.

What next generation?

Exactly! Gone are the days of science and wonder! Now it is video games and virtual reality. No one cares about the real world and the nuances it entails. Most new hams carry their station on their belts and few really know how to use them or even wonder how they work let alone how develop their skills for DXing. It is not their fault.

When we started out we looked to the journeymen of the generation before us. They took us in, elmered us, and actually brought insight where we were clueless. We have not done that for the next generation rather ceded it to the other ham, the one who is only in our imagination. This is why my colleagues and I are doing this!

Not only are we including fledgling DXers we need to draw in people who have interests similar to DXing. We need to look outside the proverbial box: For instance, we should go to beaches and look for people collecting seashells - it's not all that different from collecting countries....grab those people and show them the ham radio light! Linguists could become the next source of CW enthusiasts. Photographers could proudly display their collection of DX QSL cards rather than another boring photograph.

This is why my colleagues and I decided to establish a conveyance that would enable these individuals to develop real and effective skills. We will accomplish this by answering any and every question they would have regarding the pursuit of DX whether technical, psychological, or operational.

Are you saying any question is reasonable?

Yes, any sort of question will be entertained by the Dr. DX team, especially entertaining ones. Do they have to be about ham radio and DX'ing? Certainly not! In fact, most entertaining questions are not about ham radio and DXing at all. That said we may not answer the questions too far beyond the pale and, given our limited time and resources, we would like to focus on the ones that give the DXing novices the most bang for their buck. Nevertheless, I always enjoy being entertained. There are no questions that cannot be asked. Unfortunately there are many that cannot be answered, at least in a public forum.

You mean there are issues with some questions?

It is true that Dr. DX has colleagues around the world, many of whom would be able to answer the most difficult questions were they not currently imprisoned for previously answering those very questions.

How do we ask?

Questions concerning any aspect of DX'ing can be asked in an email to DrDX@SCDXC.org.

Well Dr. DX we look forward to seeing the fruit of your team's labor. If there is anything we can do to promote this endeavor I am sure several SCDXC members will throw their towel in the ring ..uh... their hat in the ring and work elbow to elbow with you to build up the ranks of our fair community. Until next time may the ionosphere smile on all your DX ventures!

TIDBITS

A Quick Note from Skip, KJ6Y

I would like to thank the DX Club board for the nice cake and recognition of my retirement. It was totally unexpected and I'm sure everyone enjoyed the cake.

Skip, KJ6Y

(Our ham experience would be greatly diminished were it not for your tireless work and endless advice! Again happy retirement Skip. ... Ed.)

NC6B Update

Last month we interviewed Kent, NC6B. It may not have been public knowledge at the time but he swapped out his X9 multiband yagi for a DB36. The transition was so seamless Kent did not miss a step in his pursuit of Schroeder. In fact he added 10 entities the week he put up the new sky-hook. Way to go Kent! See you in the pile ups!

(BTW, if you have not been on mumble yet you are missing out on a great DX tool. We are having a great time getting to know each other and swapping stories as well as real time DXing!!! If you want to know how to get on board email me or Mel... Ed.)



Arduino Ham Radio Starter Kit

Earlier this year, I published a series of articles on my web site called the "Arduino Ham Radio Starter Kit". The purpose of this information is to encourage more hams and their clubs to engage with the local maker community as a gateway to amateur radio.

These articles explain Arduino basics in a ham radio context. They contain many suggestions about how amateurs can use Arduino's, as well as how a ham club can engage other makers in hobby activities.

Please take a moment to review the Arduino Ham Radio Starter Kit articles. If you find them to be useful, please consider passing these along to your members or contacts.

You can use these articles by linking them to your web site, Twitter feed, Facebook page or by e-mail. The URL is:

<http://play.fallows.ca/wp/series/arduino-ham-radio-starter-kit/>

Thanks for your consideration. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

73 John Fallows VE6EY Calgary, Alberta

A Potential New DXCC Entity

Jerry, K6QU, has discovered a potential new DXCC entity, Molassia. Check out the description at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Molossia

TIDBITS

John, N6QQ, is Back on 80 Meters!

Chip, N6CA, and Bill, N6RV went over to John, N6QQ's, QTH to install an 80 meter quarter wave sloper. The antenna went up quickly and, after we figured out which coax we connected to the antenna, it was tuned to near perfect VSWR. Playing with John's SteppIR we noted that the sloper's resonant frequency would shift about 160 KHz by changing the SteppIR from 40m to 6m. It was almost enough to move the antenna from 80 CW to 75 Phone. Another issue we encountered is the SteppIR went out of calibration. It may have been RF or something to do with switching between Autotrack and Manual or running it up to 6 meters however John noted the issue even before the sloper was installed.

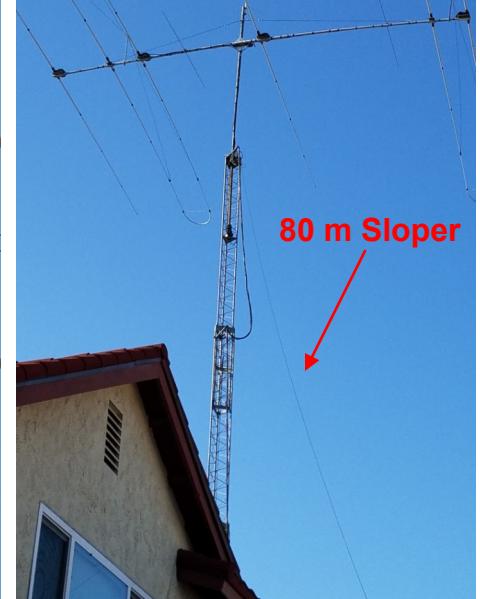
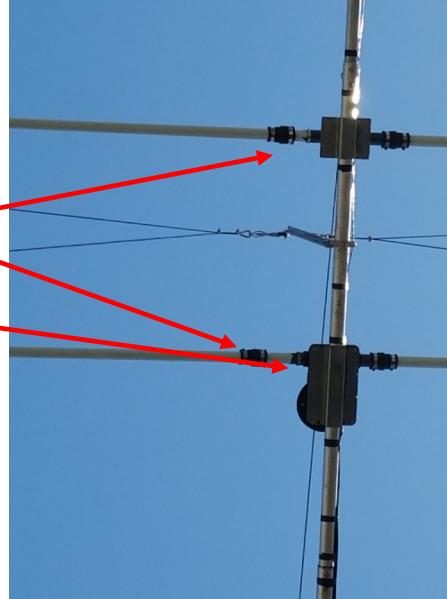
Last but not least, another issue that raised the hair on the back of our necks is that two rubber boots slipped off of one of the SteppIR DB32 electronic housing units (EHU) and travelled down the fiberglass poles. One pole was almost halfway out of the EHU. This issue has been seen before. In one case the element fell off and wrecked the copper-beryllium tape inside it. The EHU had to be replaced at great cost. With N6RV's DB18E the situation was a lot like John's. The boot on a DB18E slipped off the EHU 3 foot down the pole and the pole was sliding out. A lift was quickly called in and the situation remedied. Upon checking all the boots every hose clamp was loose and the fiberglass poles could be pulled out by hand. They also rotated freely making the loops look twisted (*that is a good indicator something is wrong*). The underlying issue is are the rubber boots. The boots were designed for indoor plumbing and they disintegrate under UV load and heat. The rubber relaxes so the clamp is loose enough for both the boot and clamp to slide over the aluminum retaining ring on the EHU. Furthermore the clamp on the pole side is loose enough to allow the boot to slide down the pole. It is necessary to re-tighten the clamps **months** after installation.

A good precaution is stake the boots to the EHU and pole with Scotch-kote and to tape the boots from the EHU to the poles before installing the hose clamps. It would be advisable to also tape the boots a second time after the hose clamps are installed. Even this may not be enough to avert a disaster!

Boots Slipped Off!

Pole pulling out!

Chip, N6CA, is looking into an alternative solution using pinch clamps and copperweld wire or matched drilled blocks to secure the poles to the EHU under the boots.



TIDBITS

HAMCON Status from George, N6VNI

I am happy to report that the vendor room is almost filled with some outstanding vendors for the 2017 HAMCON convention. There are 63 booths available, 52 booths have filled with 31 vendors so far, including two booths from the SCDXC club. We will need club members to help man the booths. If you are interested in helping man the booths, get in touch with Jerry Levine, K6QU.

This convention will be held at the Torrance Marriott Hotel Torrance CA. The dates for this convention are September 15th, 16th, 17, 2017. This convention is sanctioned as the "2017 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention". As the days, weeks and months go by until the convention, listen to the SCDXC club repeater, frequency 145.480 for more updated information.

IDXC Raffle Changes

I just wanted to give you a heads up on how we're going to be handling Major Prizes this year.

We've reviewed [IRS Publication 3079](#) again regarding tax obligations from raffle prizes and believe we must comply with those laws. Everyone who wins a major prize with a fair market value over \$601 has a tax obligation. They will be required to sign a W-2G form before receiving the prize.

If a prize is worth more than \$5,001, we must withhold 33 1/3% of the fair market value. We have two such prizes: Elecraft K-Line and Flex-6700. However, NCDXC has decided to pay those taxes on behalf of the winners — an estimated \$4,500 altogether.

To avoid any confusion on Saturday night and Sunday morning, and to make it easier for winners to take their prize home, we will have pre-filled W-2G forms ready to be signed when winners pick up their prizes during the raffle. in addition, to make sure everyone is fully informed, we are taking the following steps:

1. The website has been updated. <http://www.dxconvention.com/pages/prizes-major.html>
2. A 4 in. x 6 in. postcard containing these rules will be inserted in everyone's registration packet. (see attached)
3. The tax laws will be published in the convention guide.
4. There will be a 3 ft. x. 5 ft. banner on the wall behind the Raffle Ticket table.

We realize that taking the above steps will change the way raffles are conducted at IDXC for the future. But we need to comply with the law. The workaround is to only offer prizes worth less than \$601 — not a likely scenario. Therefore next year we're assuming SCDXC will follow a similar procedure of compliance.

For IDXC 2017, we'll need your support to ensure a smooth transition to the new rules. I think folks will understand that we have no choice, and with good communication believe raffle ticket sales will not suffer significantly.

Thanks in advance for your support.

73,
John, K6MM
IDXC 2017 Co-Chair

Resource Page

Useful DX Sites

[N0HR DXpedition Map](#)
www.n0hr.com/wk34/

The DX Zone

[www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/](#)

The Daily DX
www.dailyydx.com/

Announced DX Ops

[www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html](#)

DXing.info
www.dxing.info/dxpeditions/

DX 425 News
www.425dxn.org/dxped/

Dx-info.de
www.dx-info.de

DX Italia DX News

Propagation

The Sun! The Sun! The Sun Has Lost His Spots!

Just when you thought it could not get worse we now have experienced 22 days of zero sunspots then the first sunspot of cycle 25 appears. To most this may appear to be a real problem however in conjunction with no sunspots the A and K indices have fallen ... a quiet sun.

What does that mean you ask? Well, even without his spots Ol' Sol streams out radiation and particles that excite the ionosphere (and us!). DX, though sporadic, is still there. You just have to know when and where to look. For instances, if you are a late sleeper then you missed many of the great EU and ME openings around sunrise. If you are out and about on the weekends you have missed some pretty great contests like the BARTG and the Russian contests.

Expand out your repertoire of modes. After you learn Morse code dig into the digital modes. RTTY is a staple and activity is on the upswing. PSK is pretty much for ragchewers but DX still resides there and JT65 is loaded with DX that even the smallest of pistols can work. The only drawback is a QSO takes 5 minutes! Nevertheless both the PSK and JT65 sub bands are active even when nothing else is on! We recommend WSJTx. It is freeware and contains a suite of modes including JT65, JT9, a CW decoder, and the new MSK mode. Digipan is free-ware and good for PSK31 and PSK 63.

ARRL VE Exam Sessions

To find an ARRL exam sessions in your area go to the website:

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

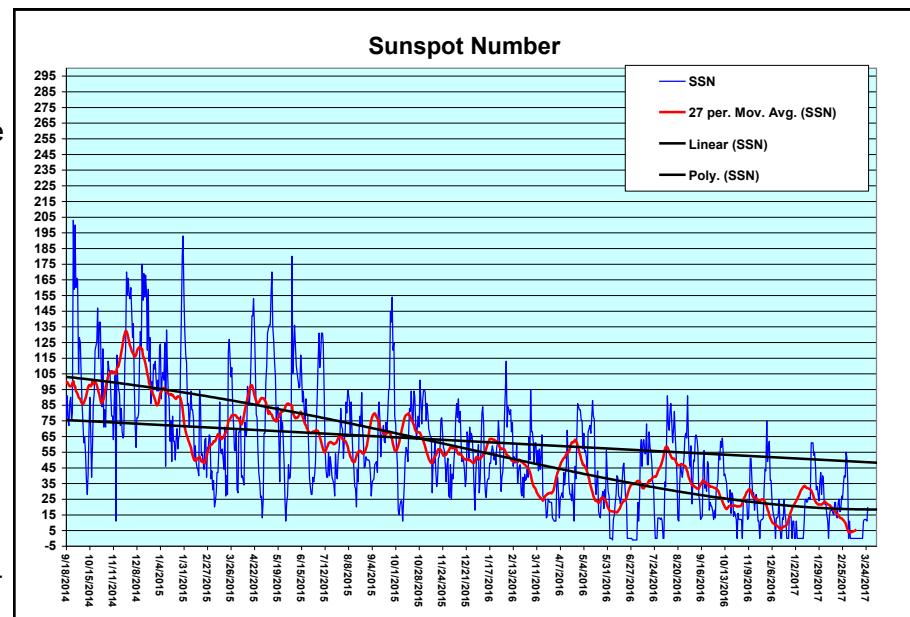
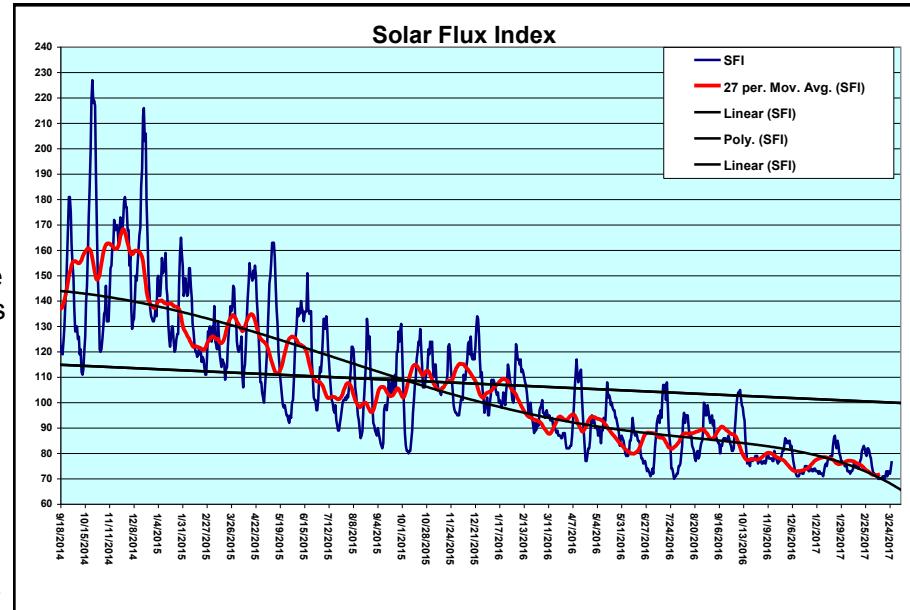
Club and Conduct Sites

Officer Guidelines

http://www.scdxc.org/download/Officer_Guidelines.pdf

DX Code of Conduct

<http://www.dx-code.org/>





Store	E-mail	Direct	Toll Free	Fax
Anaheim	ana@hamradio.com	1-714-533-7373	1-800-854-6046	1-714-533-9485
Burbank	bnk@hamradio.com	1-818-842-1786	1-800-854-6046	1-818-842-5283
San Diego	sd@hamradio.com	1-858-560-4900	1-800-854-6046	1-858-560-1705

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